(b) Mixed/intercropping of Cereals with Pulses.

(c) Sowing of short duration and high yielding varities.

(d) Increased use of inputs, Bio-agents, fertilizers and high yielding varieties.

(e) Extensive campaign for efficient use of water by sprinkler, pipe line, and use of water storage devices like Khet talai, farm, pond etc. and

(f) Extensive training and Ratri goshties.

Implementation of the APMA

1097. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act prepared by the Centre has been taken up by the States for implementation; and

(b) which are the States that have taken initiatives for the implementation of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by this Department on agricultural marketing reforms in its report of 28.06.02 has recommended several measures for strengthening and developing agricultural marketing system in the country. The Task Force has *inter-alia* recommended promotion of competitive agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors, direct marketing and contract farming programmes by amending the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act.

The recommendations of the Task Force were discussed with the State Government in the National Conference on Agricultural Marketing Reforms held on 27.09.2002 later by the Standing Committee meeting of State Ministers held on 29.1.2003, wherein, this Ministry was requested formulate a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing in order to guide the States in implementing the reforms. Accordingly, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary in Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing.

(b) The Model Legislation on Agricultural Marketing has been sent to all State Governments/UT Administrations in September, 2003 for follow up action as the subject matter falls within their purview. A National Conference of State Ministers dealing with the subject of Agricultural Marketing has been convened by this Ministry on 7th January, 2004 in order to accelerate reforms in the Agricultural Marketing.

Assistance to Assam

1098. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allotted for agriculture during the last five years in the country particularly for flood affected areas of Assam; and

(b) the total amount demanded by Assam Government and the amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the purpose during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of animal husbandry and dairying in Uttar Pradesh

†1099. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount has been allocated for promoting animal husbandry and dairying in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent for this purpose during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Animal Husbandary & Dairying released Rs. 33.91 crores to State of Uttar Pradesh for the promotion of Animal Husbandry and Dairying during last three years of which Rs. 6.66 crores had remained unutilized till 1st April, 2003.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.